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SOUTH CAROLINA COASTAL COUNCIL

Annual Report

for

July 1, 1979 - June 30, 1980

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Statutory Authority	3
II.	Historical Synopsis	3
III.	Active Programs Synopsis	4
IV.	Staff Directory	9
V.	Table of Organization	11
VI.	Budget Report	12
VII.	Publications	13
	Appendices	14
	a. Map of Coastal Council's jurisdiction (critical area)	
	b. Permit Statistics	

I. Statutory Authority

The South Carolina Coastal Council was created by Act 123 of the 1977 South Carolina Legislature. This Act is codified as Section 48-39-10 et seq. of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended. This Act created an 18 member governing body which is empowered to employ a professional staff and develop and implement a comprehensive coastal management program. The Act specifies several powers and duties of the Council and outlines some of the procedures and requirements to be used for managing South Carolina's coastal resources. The authority of the Council is divided into two parts and is limited to the eight coastal counties: Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester, Horry and Georgetown. Within these counties, which constitutes the coastal zone, a jurisdictional line for permitting of alterations of "critical areas" has been established. The critical areas are the beaches and primary ocean front sand dunes, tidelands, and coastal waters. This direct permitting in critical areas is the first part of the Council's authority. Throughout the rest of the coastal counties outside of these critical areas, the Council is authorized to review all state and federal permit applications to determine their consistency with the South Carolina Coastal Management Program. This review and certification process is the second part of the Council's authority. The attached map (Appendix A) delineates the critical areas of the coastal zone.

II. History

The Coastal Council began implementing its permitting authority on September 28, 1977. This part of the Coastal Management Program successfully reached the Council's goal of simplifying and expediting permit procedures for alterations of critical areas. Approximately 30 project proposals which were pending when the Council was created, including one that had been pending for seven years, were processed by the Council shortly after it began implementing its permit program. Also, a general permit for docks and piers was issued by the Council to simplify the process for individuals wanting to construct private recreational docks and piers.

Final regulations for the Council's permit program were approved by the General Assembly in June of 1978. These regulations were developed according to the process outlined in the Act and included public hearings and intense debate among the Council. These regulations have been used to process 1,307 permits through this reporting period (June 30, 1980). Statistics on these permits are found in Appendix B.

The second major effort of the Council, which took two years to achieve, was development and approval by the Governor, S.C. General Assembly, and U.S. Secretary of Commerce of the South Carolina Coastal Management Program. In a lengthy process involving citizen advisory groups in each coastal county, public hearings across the state, and thousands of man-hours of work the Council developed a comprehensive program to meet the goals of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (as amended) and the South Carolina Coastal Management Act. The Governor, Richard W. Riley, approved the program following legislative adoption in February of 1979. The Secretary of Commerce, Juanita Krepps, approved the program in September of 1979 in formal ceremonies in Beaufort's Waterfront Park.

Federal and State approval of the program initiated implementation of the full range of Council powers and duties and allowed the state to apply for Federal funds to help implement the program. Since program approval the State has received \$1.3 million from the Office of Coastal Zone Management in Washington, D.C., in 80/20 match grants. The Management Program includes several components derived from the State and Federal Acts. The central component of the program is the set of policies used to guide all development activities in the coastal zone. These policies are "performance standards" which outline the ways in which proposed activities may be sited, constructed, or developed that protect the natural coastal resources. The goals and objectives of the Management Program are reached through the careful implementation of these program policies.

Other components of the Management Program include an Energy Facility Planning Process, an Erosion Control Program, a Beach and Shoreline Access Program, an Intergovernmental Coordination Program (both State and Federal), and a program to protect and manage Geographical Areas of Particular Concern. Specific policies and procedures are included in these components to achieve their complex and difficult goals. All of the policies and components of the Management Program are in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the State of South Carolina Coastal Management Program*, which also includes information on Lowcountry history, the natural environment, the coastal economy, population characteristics, and coastal land use.

III. Active Programs

The Council continues to implement the South Carolina Coastal Management Program. This includes its Permit Program which is in the process of issuing a general permit for work inside of existing

impoundments that do not connect to adjacent coastal waters or tidelands. It also includes enforcement of the program through three officers on detail from the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department for each of the three areas of the Coastal Zone. These officers supervise 22 Wildlife Law Enforcement officers who use cars, boats, and the Coastal Council helicopter to look for illegal alterations of the critical areas and for compliance with conditions of permitted alterations. A computer has been programmed to keep track of all permit applications and action taken on them. This aids the Council's effort to continue to simplify and streamline permit procedures.

The Council continues to review for certification the permits of other state and federal agencies in the coastal zone. This component of the program includes implementation of Federal Consistency, which became effective upon federal approval of the program. All federal activities, loans and grants, licenses and permits, and Outer Continental Shelf leasing program activities must be consistent with the South Carolina Coastal Management Program. The Council utilizes direct correspondence and OMB-A-95 procedures to review these federal activities for consistency. Sixteen federal agencies (including 34 subunits of the agencies) have been contacted to coordinate their programs with the South Carolina Coastal Management Program. The Council has entered into Memoranda of Understanding with eight state agencies to help coordinate their activities with the Program. Statistics on review and certification are found in Appendix B.

The Council has initiated a study with the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium to develop baseline data on erosion problems along the South Carolina coast. This effort, part of the Erosion Control Program, will be extremely useful to the Council as it develops alternatives to beach erosion control measures. Also part of this program is the expenditure of funds, through the local governments of Folly Beach, Isle of Palms, and Myrtle Beach, for erosion control measures. These expenditures are also part of the Beach Access Program in that walk-overs and dedicated public right-of-ways are required in the areas where the money will be used. This preserves and expands the access of the public to the public beaches of South Carolina. The Beach Access Program is also being implemented through the Permit Program in that no permits for erosion control structures may allow a restriction of access for the public to the beach.

Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach were given \$15,000 each to provide public access ways in sand dune areas. Besides providing improved public access, the 'walkovers' constructed also help protect the sand dunes by keeping pedestrians from tramping them down.

The S.C. General Assembly approved a \$600,000 bond measure for erosion control activities in the coastal zone and granted the Council the authority to disperse this money on control projects which are consistent with the Management Program. The Council has committed \$40,000 to Myrtle Beach and \$320,000 to Folly Beach, which has very serious erosion problems, and has spent \$7,200 at Edisto Beach for erosion control. The remaining bond money has not been applied for.

The Coastal Council initiated a study with the S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism on alternative erosion control measures for Hunting Island State Park. This Park has suffered severe erosion and continues to erode at a significant rate. The study is aimed at identifying effective alternatives to slow this erosion.

The Coastal Council has undertaken the task of restoring two Geographical Areas of Particular Concern. One area, the Hampton Plantation in the Santee River Delta, is being studied by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology of the University of South Carolina. This study will provide information on the 'rice culture' of early South Carolina coastal history and enable the public to appreciate the lowcountry's cultural heritage. The other area, the tomb of Thomas B. Heyward, is being made accessible to the public. Thomas B. Heyward was the only signer of the Declaration of Independence who was from South Carolina. His tomb and surrounding area have been cleared and appropriately marked so that the public can visit this historic site.

Two other activities initiated during this report period are educational in nature. One, the teacher training and curriculum development for a course on coastal resources and management, provided money and staff involvement to adapt a University of Hawaii developed course to South Carolina. Teachers may undergo workshops to become familiar with the course which is instructional in government processes as well as coastal ecosystems. The other activity is not academically oriented. It consists of developing and distributing a series of educational publications on coastal ecosystems, construction practices which are sensitive to or which can accommodate coastal ecosystem constraints, and specific design and engineering information and analysis for a variety of structures commonly built in the coastal zone (such as sea walls, docks, dune walk-overs, etc.) Distribution of these publications should help developers and coastal land owners to appreciate the natural and public values of coastal resources and should provide substantial guidance on how to protect them.

Under a coastal fisheries assistance program the Coastal Council is helping to identify all of the oyster grounds in South Carolina.

Through a contract with the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium all oyster grounds will be mapped and this information will be used in the implementation of the Management Program and Permit Program. Work has also been contracted on a mechanical oyster harvester. This device will be used to collect and transfer oysters from polluted waters to unpolluted public shellfish areas.

SOUTH CAROLINA COASTAL COUNCIL
1980

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Senator Arnold S. Goodstein
Representative Jean B. Meyers
Representative William Campbell
Ms. Patricia Bowie - 1st District
Dr. John M. Dean - 2nd District
Dr. Jack Scurry - 3rd District
Mr. Hubert E. Yarborough, III - 4th District
Mr. John C. Hayes - 5th District
Mr. C.C. Huffman - 6th District
Mr. Joab M. Dowling - Beaufort County
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Ms. Sallie J. Scott - Charleston County
Mr. C.G. Padgett - Colleton County
Dr. Thomas Messervy - Dorchester County
Mr. Claymon Grimes - Georgetown County
Mr. William J. Sigmon - Horry County
Mr. Walter Baxter - Jasper County

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Secretary/Receptionist

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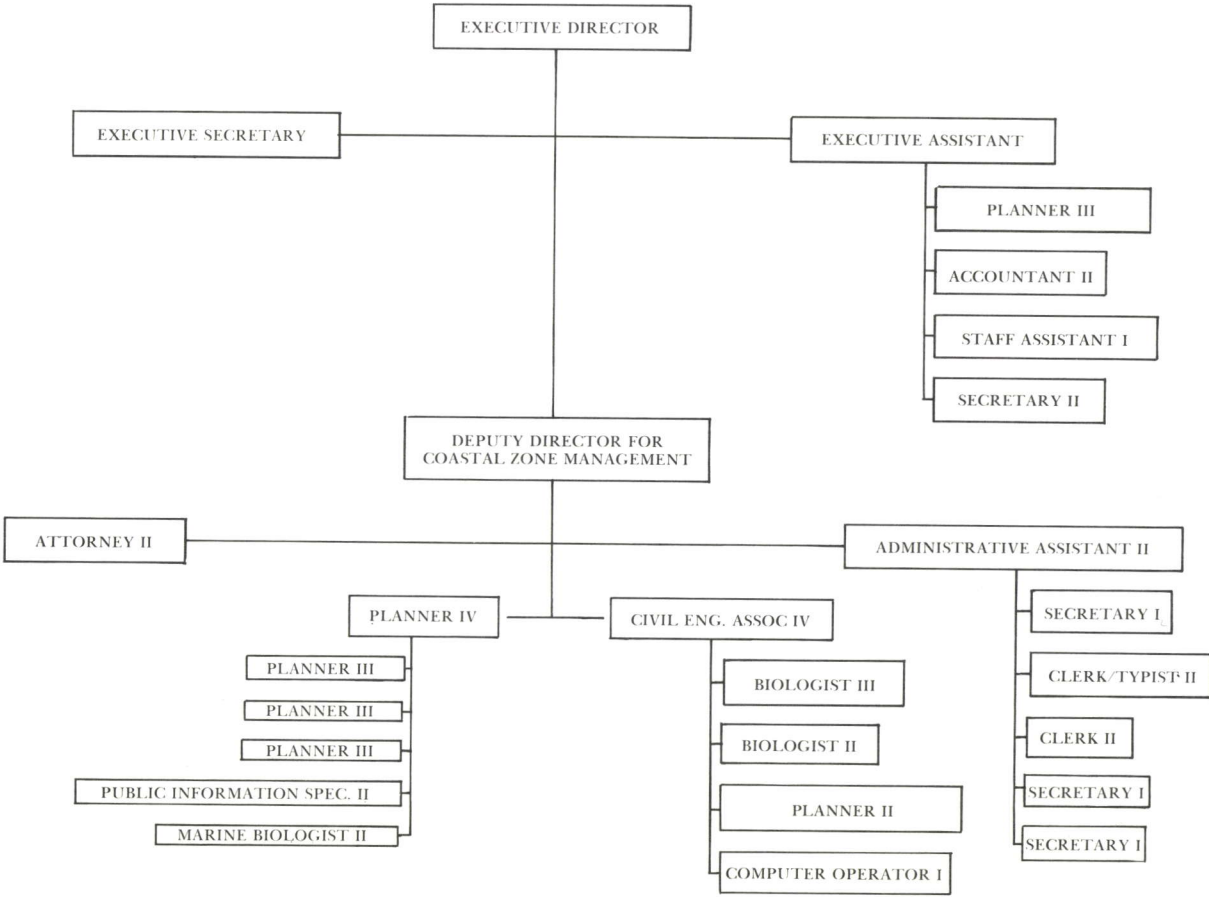
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SOUTH CAROLINA COASTAL COUNCIL



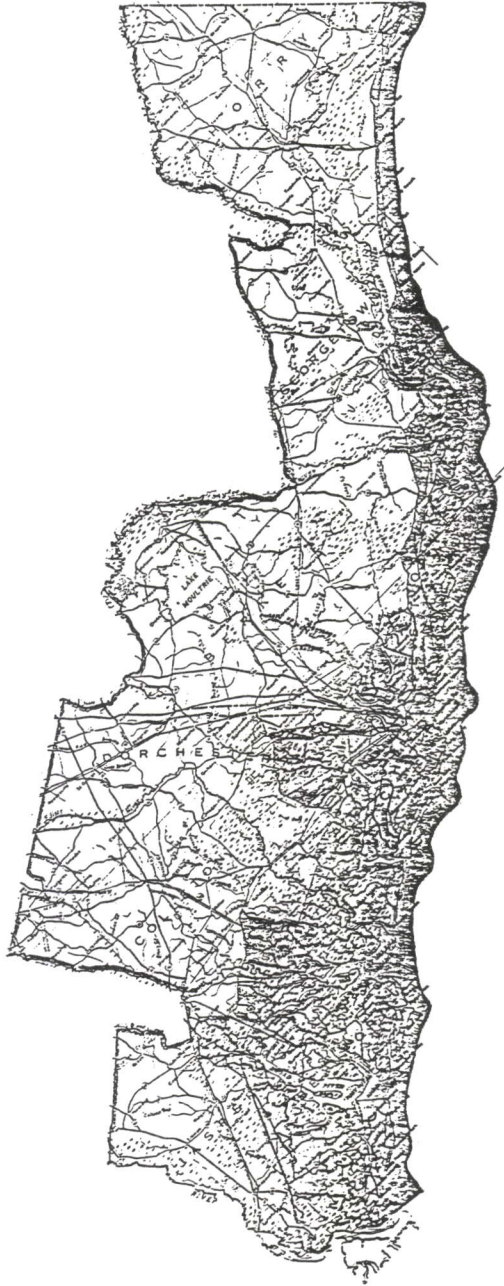
SOUTH CAROLINA COASTAL COUNCIL
Expenditures for Fiscal Year 1979/1980

	Total Funds	State Funds
Personal Service	389,861.18	99,192.53
Per Diem - Board	<u>15,715.00</u>	
Total Personal Service	405,576.18	<u>99,192.53</u>
 Other Operating Expenses:		
Contractual Services	360,016.78	148,661.00
Supplies	41,649.44	126.00
Fixed Charges &		
Contributions	118,343.40	20,560.00
Equipment	<u>28,273.94</u>	<u>7,315.51</u>
 Total Other Operating Expenses	548,283.56	176,662.51
 Employer Contributions	<u>58,881.89</u>	<u>14,571.24</u>
 Total Coastal Council	1,012,741.63	290,426.28

VII. List of Publications

1. State of South Carolina Coastal Management Program and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
2. State of South Carolina Coastal Management Program and Final Environmental Impact Statement.
3. Carolina Currents (monthly).
4. Brochures on Council, Coastal Management, and Permitting.
5. Posters.
6. Rules and Regulations for Permitting (includes application form and instructions).

*Note: The Council maintains a Library at the Charleston office which contains hundreds of technical reports, studies, books, and periodicals.

APPENDIX A—Map of Permit Jurisdiction (Critical areas shaded)

Appendix B

Permits Processed by Coastal Council from September 28, 1977 through June 30, 1980.

ACTION	NUMBER
Issued	987
Cancelled	33
Denied	37
Held in Abeyance	16
Issued and Not Signed by Applicant	56
Review of Applications From Out of Critical Areas in the Coastal Zone	178
Actively Being Processed	46*
TOTAL	1307
(*not included in total)	

Total Number of Projects Reviewed by the South Carolina Coastal Council Since September 28, 1978

A-95	575
Wastewater Permits	125
NPDES Permits	100
Water Supply Permits	80
Solid Waste Permits	4
Air Emission Permits	11
Federal Consistency Determinations*	18
Others	85
	998

(*Note that an indeterminate number of A-95 reviews are for Federal activities and may be considered part of this category.)

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